



# The County Observer

Roanoke County Police Department Crime Prevention Newsletter

## CRIME PREVENTION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

CRIME PREVENTION IS NOT SOLELY THE JOB OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. EVERY MEMBER OF SOCIETY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO CRIME PREVENTION. NO SINGLE GROUP OR ORGANIZATION CAN POSSIBLY PREVENT CRIME ON BEHALF OF ALL. EACH PERSON AND EACH GROUP HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PREVENT CRIME AND TO SPUR OTHERS TO ACTION.

One of the best ways for citizens to participate in crime prevention is to mobilize their neighborhood through an organized crime prevention project, such as Neighborhood Watch. Neighborhood Watch was created in 1972 by the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) to provide citizens with a way to unite against crime in their own communities. The program focused on securing property to make it less vulnerable to break-ins but has evolved to promote Watch groups in which citizen's, restore pride in the community, and look out for suspicious activity. Citizen's are now learning to incorporate terrorism prevention into their Neighborhood Watches and to make preparedness a part of their daily lives.

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, utilize citizen volunteers to help provide a safe and crime-free environment for users of trails and recreational facilities located

in over 30,000 acres of parkland. Park police began a small Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) program in 1992 and have since expanded it to include approximately 50 volunteers who patrol the parkland by car, bike, and horse to watch for and report violations and concerns; assist in investigative, administrative, and community service functions; and help out at community events such as Police Awareness Day and the county fair with traffic direction, dispensing information, public relations, etc. All volunteers attend an eight-to-ten-week Volunteer Academy and a three-day field training program. For more information, visit [www.parkpolice.net](http://www.parkpolice.net) and [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org).

A working relationship between the community and the police department became essential in Austin, Texas, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Like other law enforcement agencies across the country, the Austin Police Department assumed new and important responsibilities to help keep its community and nation safe from further terrorist acts. These added duties pushed the department to look to citizens for help, resulting in the creation of the city's Civil Defense Battalion. Volunteers are screened, trained by officers, and placed in various positions. They help with daylight patrols, dissemination of information, search-and-rescue missions, and office tasks. [www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/)

*Editor's note: From the National Crime Prevention Council-Monthly Action Kit.*

### BURGLARIES

The following burglaries were reported to the Roanoke County Police Department during the months of September, October, and November. The data for December was not available at the time of publication.

**District one** had one business burglary in the 3500 block of Peters Creek Road.

**District two** had one residential burglary in the 2400 block of Coachman Drive, one residential burglary in the 800 block of Dexter Road, and one residential burglary in the 5600 block of Hollins Road.

**District three** had one residential burglary in the 5700 block of Yellow Mountain Road, one residential burglary in the 2700 block of Rutrough Road, one residential burglary in the 2700 block of Highland Road, one residential burglary in the 3100 block of Rutrough Road, one residential burglary in the 3600 block of Jae Valley Road, one residential burglary in the 200 block of Laurel Hill Drive, and one residential burglary in the 4000 block of Rutrough Road.

**District four** had one residential burglary in the 6800 block of Starlight Lane, one residential burglary in the 4900 block of Fox

Ridge Road, one residential burglary in the 8900 block of Willow Branch Road, two business burglaries in the 5200 block of Franklin Road, one business burglary in the 5300 block of Franklin Road, one business burglary in the 5300 block of Indian Grave Road, one business burglary in the 2800 block of Penn Forest Blvd., and one business burglary in the 3100 block of Chaparral Drive.

**District five** had one residential burglary in the 3700 block of Martinell Avenue, one residential burglary in the 1900 block of Mercer Avenue, one residential burglary in the 3500 block of Grandin Road, and one business burglary in the 3300 block of Circle Brook Drive.

**District six** had one residential burglary in the 2200 block of Bridle Lane, one residential burglary in the 6300 block of Midsummer Lane, one residential burglary in the 4600 block of Hazel Drive, one residential burglary in the 3400 block of Farmington Drive, one business burglary in the 6100 block of Sandhurst Drive, one business burglary in the 4800 block of Brambleton Avenue, one business burglary in the 7500 block of Old Bent Mountain Road, and one business burglary in the 5800 block of Cotton Hill Drive.

**District seven** had one residential burglary in the 4800 block of West Main Street, one residential burglary in the 4600 block of West Main Street, and one business burglary in the 2500 block of Diuguids Lane.

**District eight** had one residential burglary in the 7000 block of Newport Road, and one business burglary in the 1700 block of Thompson Memorial Drive

## IMPAIRED DRIVING

This holiday season please be careful while attending parties and other festive events. Remember that alcohol affects each person differently. Don't take chances when driving your vehicle. Use a designated driver or call a cab but do not drink and drive. The Roanoke County Police Department would like to see each person have a safe and happy holiday season. Keep the following facts in mind before getting behind the steering wheel of your car after consuming alcohol:

- Alcohol-related highway crashes are the leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults.
- Take a stand against impaired driving: Always drive sober. If you drink, plan ahead and designate a non-drinking driver.
- **Never serve alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21. It's against the law!**
- Report suspected impaired drivers to local police by dialing 9-1-1 or #77 from your cell phone.
- Buckle up! It's your best defense against an impaired driver.
- Support DWI law enforcement efforts and stronger DWI laws.

## CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

This is an exciting time of year when people begin shopping for the holidays. This excitement brings many more distractions. Make a conscious effort to be alert

to your surroundings at all times. Many people are chosen as victims because of their actions and behaviors.

Always park your vehicle in areas that have good lighting. Park as close to the business as you can. Park in front of stores if possible and not in the rear where people do not go. Remember that there is safety in numbers. Try to walk to your vehicle as others are walking out.

Don't get lulled into a false sense of security because there are cameras throughout a store and parking lot. Often times these cameras are recording but are not being monitored. These cameras would give good evidence for law enforcement after the crime, but may not render assistance while the crime is being committed. Remain alert at all times just as you would if the cameras were not present.

Never carry large amounts of cash on you, pay for purchases with a check or credit card. Carry a purse close to your body and not dangling off of your arm. Put a wallet in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.

Finally, do not try to carry all of your packages at one time. Keep one arm free to have your key ready as you approach your car. That one free arm can also be used to defend you from an attack.

## HOLIDAY VACATIONS

This is the time of year when people start traveling for the holiday season. Criminals love the holidays as much as anyone else, mainly because it's a perfect time to commit a crime. Here are a few tips to keep in mind for a safe and happy holiday season:

- If you are traveling, set an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask your neighbor to watch your house, shovel the walks, pick up the newspapers, collect mail, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Be sure to hide any gift that may be in the house while you are gone on vacation.
- If you are out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or TV so that it appears that someone is home.
- Lock all doors and windows while you are out, even if you will be out for only a few minutes.

Keep in mind that your safety is your responsibility. Take a few minutes and think in order to ensure that you and your property will be safe this holiday season.

### UNDERAGE DRINKING

This is the time of year when both adults and children will be hosting parties for the Holiday Season. We at the Roanoke County Police Department hope that each of you and your families have a wonderful but safe holiday. For this reason, we would like to stress a few important points for you to consider.

You cannot give alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 under any circumstance, even in your own home, even with the parent's permission. You can face up to twelve months in jail and/or \$2500.00 fine. Others may sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under the age of 21 and they, in

turn hurt someone, hurt themselves, or damage property.

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The Roanoke County Police Department uses several different methods to get crime prevention information out to the public.

Public talks are always available upon request. Church groups, school groups, Boy and Girl Scout groups are examples of groups that request talks. Talks range from "Personal Safety" to "Scams and Fraud". If your group would like to have a program, call the Crime Prevention Office at 561-8062.

There is also a "Neighborhood Watch Selected Activities" Report which we place on the web site. If you go to:

[www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police](http://www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police) you can view this list. Each month we update the list with all the calls for service from the previous month.

This is a good program because it allows each person to see crime trends and the locations of these trends across the county. This list is not designed to give specific information on certain crimes that have occurred; rather it tells that a crime did occur within a certain area of the county.

There is also a "Business Watch Selected Activities" Report as well. It is designed the same way as the report for Neighborhood Watch. If you are a business owner and observe a high volume of calls in your area, you can increase your security and decrease the chance of becoming a victim of the same crime.

If you don't have a computer, or don't feel comfortable using a computer, you can call the Roanoke County Crime Prevention Office and be placed

on a mailing list for each month. Anyone having questions about these methods of getting crime prevention information out can call Officer Rick Crosier at 561-8062.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	561-8036
Criminal Investigation	561-8063
Vice-Narcotics	561-8097
Crime Prevention	561-8062
<a href="mailto:rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov">rcrosier@roanokecountyva.gov</a>	
Rape Aggression Defense	561-8074
<a href="mailto:RAD@roanokecountyva.gov">RAD@roanokecountyva.gov</a>	
AEP (Street Lights, Outages):	1-800-956-4237

**Crime Line 344-8500**

### WEBSITES

Roanoke County Police  
[www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police](http://www.roanokecountyva.gov/departments/police)

Commonwealth of Virginia  
Terrorism Alert System new website address  
[www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/](http://www.commonwealthpreparedness.virginia.gov/)

National Sheriff's Association  
Neighborhood Watch Program  
[www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org)

RVTV 3 – Roanoke Valley  
Television  
[www.rvtv.org](http://www.rvtv.org)